



2021 APAAC Annual Prosecutor Conference



Leadership & Service with Integrity



June 23 – 25, 2021



2021 APAAC ANNUAL PROSECUTOR CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



WEDNESDAY, June 23, 2021

Time	Session Title	Presented by:
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Welcoming Remarks	Elizabeth Burton Ortiz, APAAC Executive Director Sheila Polk, APAAC Chair, Yavapai County Attorney
9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Break	
9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Examination of the Expert Witness	George Brauchler, District Attorney for Colorado's 18 th Judicial District
10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Break	
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Examination of the Expert Witness	George Brauchler, District Attorney for Colorado's 18 th Judicial District
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch	
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Emotional Intelligence	Jay Chapman, Assistant Phoenix City Prosecutor

THURSDAY, June 24, 2021

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Keynote: Between Charging & Charged: The Humble Power of the Prosecutor	William Ring, Coconino County Attorney, Coconino County Attorney's Office
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Break	
10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Award Ceremony	Elizabeth Burton Ortiz, APAAC Executive Director
11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Talking to A Jury: Are You Getting Through?	Kimberly Overton Spahos, Chief Resource Prosecutor, North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys

FRIDAY, June 25, 2021

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	DUI Prosecution: Strategies, Science & Law	Beth Barnes, GOHS TSRP, Assistant Phoenix City Prosecutor
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Break	
10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Make it Make Sense: Explaining a Victim's Counterintuitive Behavior	Sharla Jackson, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resource Prosecutor, Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia
11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks	Elizabeth Burton Ortiz, APAAC Executive Director

Presenter Biographies



George Brauchler

District Attorney for Colorado's 18th Judicial District

Examination of the Expert Witness

George H. Brauchler served as the elected District Attorney for the 18th Judicial District (JD), which includes Arapahoe, Douglas, Elbert, and Lincoln counties, from 2013-2021.

Each of Colorado's 22 judicial districts elects a district attorney who serves as the chief law enforcement officer for that district. The 18th JD is the most populous in Colorado, with a population in excess of 1.1 million people.

George's experience includes working as a Deputy District Attorney, Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, military prosecutor, criminal defense attorney, military defense attorney, and just prior to his election, the Chief of Military Justice — the chief prosecutor—for Fort Carson, the 4th Infantry Division, and the U.S. Division North in Tikrit, Iraq.

As a state prosecutor, he has handled the felony cases from the Columbine High School mass shooting case, the Aurora Theater (Batman) mass shooting case, and remains the lead prosecutor on the STEM school mass shooting case. Colonel Brauchler serves as a military judge and legal advisor for NORAD-NORTHCOM in the Colorado National Guard. He has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Colorado School of Law, University of Denver College of Law, and the U.S. Army JAG School, and has trained state and military prosecutors across the United States and worldwide. George is married with four children.



Beth Barnes

GOHS TSRP, Assistant Phoenix City Prosecutor

DUI Prosecution: Strategies, Science & Law

Beth Barnes serves as Arizona's GOHS Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor (TSRP) through a grant from the Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety and the Arizona DUI Abatement Council. In this role, she serves as a resource for law enforcement, prosecutors, traffic safety professionals, judges, and the community to more effectively address impaired driving and other traffic safety issues. She has been an assistant city prosecutor with the City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office for almost 30 years, specializing in the prosecution of DUI cases. Beth also serves as the national prosecutor representative on the IACP Technical Advisory Panel for Impaired Driving Programs.

Presenter Biographies (continued)



Jay Chapman
Assistant Phoenix City Prosecutor
Emotional Intelligence

Jay Chapman has been an Assistant City Prosecutor for the City of Phoenix for fourteen years. He is a Team Captain in the Trial Bureau of the Prosecutor's Office where he has conducted hundreds of bench trials and jury trials. He supervises, trains, and mentors attorneys and has presented to prosecutors on the topics of Domestic Violence, Jury Selection, Commercial Trucking cases, Strangulation cases, Fatality and Serious Injury cases, Cross-Examination, and Stress Management. He is a City of Phoenix Adjunct Faculty Facilitator of the city's Emotional Intelligence course. He has been a guest speaker at the city's leadership programs and at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University.



Sharla Jackson
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resource Prosecutor
Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia
Make it Make Sense: Explaining a Victim's Counterintuitive Behavior

Sharla Jackson currently serves as the Program Director for the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resource Program for the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia. She oversees domestic violence and sexual assault training for prosecutors, law enforcement officers and victim advocates throughout the state of Georgia, Basic Mandate Training for the Georgia State Patrol, Georgia's statewide Prosecution Team on the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Task Force and all prosecution-delivered training funded under the Violence Against Women's Act.

Ms. Jackson is an expert trainer in trial advocacy and law enforcement response. She is also an expert on crime victim's rights. She has increased training opportunities for underserved and rural areas of Georgia and was recently recognized with the "Shining Light Award" given by the Partnership Against Domestic Violence for her innovative program, Court School for Victims Advocates.

Presenter Biographies

(continued)



Kimberly Overton Spahos
Chief Resource Prosecutor
North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys
Talking to A Jury: Are You Getting Through?

A prosecutor, trainer, teacher, speaker and facilitator, Kimberly Overton Spahos currently serves with the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys as the Chief Resource Prosecutor where she provides technical assistance, education and training to prosecutors, law enforcement and other criminal justice and allied professionals. Before coming to the Conference of District Attorneys in 2003 as North Carolina's first Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor, Kimberly served as an Assistant District Attorney in Halifax County, NC working in both district and superior court. As an Assistant District Attorney and currently as a Special Prosecutor, Kimberly has handled all types of cases ranging from traffic tickets to homicide.

During her tenure as North Carolina's Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor, Kimberly developed a collaborative model program. Authoring several prosecution manuals, law enforcement resource materials and quick reference guides, Kimberly gained national acclaim for the Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor program yielding her recognition from various organizations and a two year prosecution fellowship with the National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators (NAPC) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Kimberly has served as faculty for thousands of courses sponsored by numerous criminal justice organizations throughout the world. Lecturing in more than 40 states and 3 countries, she has been instrumental in the creation of an "out of the box" approach to curriculum development and course production. As guest lecturer at Wake Forest and North Carolina Central law schools and adjunct professor for a Prosecution Advocacy course at the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law at Campbell University, Kimberly understands the need to promote a grassroots, ground level approach to criminal justice issues and solutions. As a regular keynote speaker and visiting lecturer at Police Training Academies, Community Colleges, Technical Institutes and Universities throughout the country, she frequently educates students and community organizations regarding criminal justice matters. More recently, Kimberly has been focusing on leadership development curriculum and courses.

Additionally, Kimberly serves on the Professionalism Committee for the Wake County Bar Association, the Executive Board for the National District Attorneys Association, the Standards Committee for the American Bar Association (ABA), as Advisory Committee Chairman of NC MADD, and as the NAPC Highway Safety Committee Chairman. She previously served on the North Carolina Bar Association (NCBA) Board of Governors and the Criminal Justice Section as a Past Chair, the Executive Board for the North Carolina Victim Assistance Network, International Association of Chemical Testing Ethics Committee Chairman, a member of the North Carolina Joint Legislative Taskforce on Fraud Against Older Adults and on the Discovery Task Force for the ABA. Most recently, Kimberly was awarded the NCBA Peter S. Gilchrist Award for extraordinary service as a prosecutor, contributions to the criminal justice system of North Carolina, and to the legal profession. She also served her community as a past Executive Board member with the Woman's Missionary Union of NC.

Presenter Biographies (continued)



William Ring
Coconino County Attorney

Keynote: Between Charging & Charged: The Humble Power of the Prosecutor

Bill Ring was first elected as Coconino County Attorney in November, 2016. Mr. Ring leads an Office of 47 attorneys and administrative professionals. Previously, Mr. Ring served for 15 years in the County Attorney's Office in every position common to deputy county attorneys including juvenile, misdemeanor and felony prosecution and, most often, as a civil deputy and Senior Civil Attorney. Mr. Ring also owned and managed a private legal practice for 12 years in Flagstaff performing community development law, land use, real estate and zoning.

Mr. Ring is an advocate for building strong and resilient communities and improving the safety of communities through the just and fair application of the law. Mr. Ring annually teaches ethics and effective public service at continuing education seminars throughout the Southwest. Mr. Ring is admitted to practice law in the Supreme Court of the United States, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the District Court of Arizona, and all courts in the State of Arizona.

Mr. Ring is a Board Member of the National District Attorneys Association, Vice-Chair of the Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys Advisory Council (APAAC) and a Board Member of the Arizona Association of Counties (AACo). He is President of the Arizona County Attorneys Association (AC2A).

Mr. Ring is a graduate of the University of Rochester with degrees in Religious Studies (B.A., 1983) and a Master's Degree in Education (M.S. Ed., 1985). He is a graduate of the University of Arizona's Rogers College of Law (J.D., 1989). He has been active in a variety of civic leadership groups including the Coconino County Bar Association (past-President), and is a past-Board Member to the Coconino County Sustainable Economic Development Initiative, the Northern Arizona Builders Association and the Greater Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Ring is a graduate of the inaugural Flinn-Brown Civic Leadership Academy in Phoenix, Arizona.

Mr. Ring and his wife Lisa have lived in Flagstaff for 32 continuous years and raised their children in Flagstaff. The children are pursuing work in geological engineering, philosophy (PhD), and medicine (M.D.).

Award Nominees

Felony Prosecutor of the Year - Large Jurisdiction



Louis Giaquinto
Maricopa County Attorney's Office

Louis Giaquinto persevered in an exceptionally challenging year to ensure that justice was done despite a worldwide pandemic that changed nearly everything about daily life. COVID-19 radically changed the way courts operated, presenting extraordinary hurdles to securing witnesses and their testimony, and, for a period of time, completely shutting down jury trials. Exceptional prosecutors pressed forward, confronting the challenges of the pandemic, ensuring that victims and defendants could have their day in court. Louis' accomplishments would be noteworthy any year, but with the additional challenge of COVID-19, his successes as a prosecutor this year are extraordinary. He conducted in two homicide

jury trials under the confines of COVID-19 restrictions. In both trials, the juries returned first degree murder verdicts. Louis' work and dedication ensured that the victim's families saw justice served and defendants held accountable.



Rebecca Jones
Arizona Attorney General's Office

As an Assistant Attorney General in the Drug and Racketeering Enforcement Section, Rebecca Jones carries a complex caseload with numerous multi-defendant cases and is regarded as a wire expert within the office. Rebecca is a leader. When the Drug Section faced an 80% turnover in attorneys, Rebecca carried the caseload of many attorneys and helped to onboard a new Section Chief. During a trying year, Rebecca stayed in communication with her agents and taught virtual trainings. Rebecca took an extra active wire case to make sure that agents were able to get more drugs off the streets and that the involved parties would be held accountable. In 2020

alone, one of Rebecca's wires (CWT-525) resulted in the indictment of 21 individuals, the prevention of multiple planned robberies and the seizure of 49.43 pounds of heroin, 180.9 pounds of methamphetamine, 3.05 pounds of cocaine, 228,596 fentanyl pills, 1.9 pounds of fentanyl powder and \$255,671 bulk US currency.

Award Nominees

Felony Prosecutor of the Year - Small Jurisdiction



Glen Asay
Yavapai County Attorney's Office

Glen Asay has been a felony prosecutor in the Yavapai County Attorney's Office for two and a half years. Glen joined our office as an experienced prosecutor, having tried over forty jury trials during a seven-year tenure with the Campbell County Attorney's Office in Gillette, Wyoming. Felony prosecutors in small jurisdictions wear many hats. In Glen's case, those hats would be cowboy hats. Glen's willingness to serve where needed, handle a heavy load of trial-bound cases, cheerfully assist his fellow prosecutors and victim advocates, and still be involved in our community outside of work is the epitome of a small jurisdiction prosecutor. When not at work, Glen is a devoted husband and father, an aspiring blacksmith, and an accomplished guitar-strumming musician. Glen's dedication, exemplary legal skills, and his willingness to assume varied and new duties over the pandemic make him our Outstanding Felony Prosecutor of the Year.



Jacob Cote
Mohave County Attorney's Office

Jacob Cote is the Felony Prosecutor of the Year. Jacob has been with the Mohave County Attorney's Office since 2010. Jacob has completed 34 felony jury trials with many of those trials being cases involving dangerous crimes against children. He completed 3 felony jury trials last year during the pandemic. Jacob is the child sex crimes team leader. One of Jacob's recent trial successes was a guilty conviction for Molestation of a Child on a retrial that the jury hung on in the first trial. This case involved tribal and dual county jurisdiction issues, requiring extensive briefing, due to the crime occurring on a moving train. Jacob worked with the US Attorney's Office and neighboring county to ensure justice could have its day in court. This was a hard-fought victory requiring conviction and the ability to adapt and improve.

Award Nominees

Felony Prosecutor of the Year - Small Jurisdiction (continued)



Lori Zucco
Cochise County Attorney's Office

Trying a first-degree murder case is always a stressful experience for everyone involved. In this particular case, the Defendant also had a well-publicized self-defense claim; despite having shot an unarmed victim in the middle of a public street. Added to all of this, the Defendant went through 7 or 8 attorneys (we lost count). He threatened the life of everyone involved in his case. He was brazen enough to leave a voicemail on a Judge's phone promising to kill the assigned trial judge, resulting in a reassignment. He even sent a letter to the State Bar threatening Lori Zucco's life. Despite all of this and despite the difficulty of assembling a trial jury in the midst of a global pandemic, Lori did what anyone dedicated to the pursuit of Justice would do... she just kept pursuing it. In the end, an appropriate verdict of First-Degree Murder was reached, and this particular Defendant will not ever be in a position to act on any of his threats.

Misdemeanor Prosecutor of the Year



Doug Jann and Natalie LaPorte
Scottsdale City Prosecutor's Office

The Scottsdale City Prosecutor's office is extremely fortunate to have Doug Jann and Natalie La Porte as its specialty Domestic Violence Prosecutors. Doug has been with the Office for 16 years, and Natalie has been with the office for 7 years. Doug and Natalie have been partnered together as the Office's Domestic Violence team for approximately 6 years.

During that time, Doug and Natalie have been instrumental in creating the Scottsdale City Court's first specialty DV Court. They not only hold domestic violence offenders accountable, they fundamentally understand the cycle of violence and effectively work with both victims and defendants to eradicate trauma caused by intimate partner violence.

Award Nominees

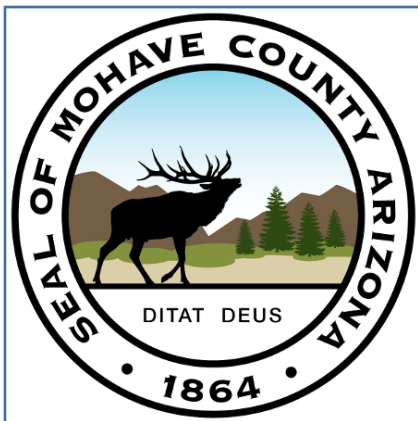
Misdemeanor Prosecutor of the Year (continued)



Julia Ketchum
Yavapai County Attorney's Office

Undoubtably, aspiring prosecutors never envision their courtroom stage as a rural community center. Yet, due to the pandemic, such has become the reality for deputy county attorney Julia Ketchum. Julia is a talented and passionate prosecutor who handles the busiest justice court in Yavapai County, Mayer Justice Court. When social distancing due to the pandemic outgrew the tiny Mayer Justice courthouse, Julia quickly adjusted to prosecuting jury trials in the community center across the street with good humor and her “can-do” attitude. Julia’s perseverance and persistence are admirable, and her “never give up” attitude is always on display. Julia’s

humble response to praise is always “I’m just doing my job.” Julia’s talent, hard work and dedication to the pursuit of justice make her worthy of this recognition.



Leah Nelson
Mohave County Attorney's Office

Leah Nelson started with the Mohave County Attorney’s Office as a student-intern and quickly established herself as a true and noble prosecutor. She fears nothing: taking on a large misdemeanor caseload as soon as she received her bar card, including many cases already set for trial, she has championed victims in the three largest justice courts in Mohave County. She has a keen sense for justice and does not shy away from difficult arguments or difficult cases; recently taking a case

up on appeal after an unjust ruling in a motion hearing. She conducted a Jury Trial and more than 10 Bench Trials during the pandemic. Leah fearlessly takes on the causes of victim’s rights and justice.

Award Nominees

Misdemeanor Prosecutor of the Year (continued)



Lori Van Haren
Phoenix Prosecutor's Office

The City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office proudly nominates Lori Van Haren for the 2021 Misdemeanor Prosecutor of the Year Award in recognition of her resolute dedication to improving the lives of veterans, and her tireless work helping make Phoenix neighborhoods safer. Lori is committed to the important responsibilities in the office and the pursuit of justice. Lori is happily married with three

children and loves hiking with her family during her free time.



Henry Vargas
Tucson City Prosecutor's Office

Henry Vargas is the sole prosecutor assigned to the Tucson City Court specialized mental health court. Henry has approximately 2700 active and warrant cases assigned to him, which include many "high utilizer" recidivist offenders, who often have more than twenty active charges. He exercises considerable discretion to carefully assess each offender's history to determine the appropriate course of action. He

consults with not only defendants, defense counsel, and the judge, but also with unrepresented defendants, family members, mental health care providers, probation officers, and victims. Importantly, he appears for the State in Rule 11 competency hearings in Pima County Superior Court, where he makes recommendations to the court. The description for this award calls for the demonstration of the prosecutor's "extraordinary achievement."

Award Nominees

Juvenile Prosecutor of the Year



Danalyn Savage
Yavapai County Attorney's Office

Danalyn Savage is very dedicated to her juvenile caseload and strives to reach good resolutions for all concerned. This past year, she handled a high-profile juvenile case that began as a 2019 senior high school prank. Four senior boys thought it would be amusing to pour several gallons of vegetable oil on the floor of the gym at Chino Valley High School. Unfortunately, the damage to the floor was so extensive it had to be replaced. All four boys admitted their guilt but contested the amount of restitution. After lengthy litigation, the Court ordered restitution in the amount of \$182,877.12, and that each juvenile pay \$45,703.25 individually. The boys appealed this order which has been upheld by our appellate courts. Danalyn handled the entire case through the appellate process.



Michelle Arino
Maricopa County Attorney's Office

As the Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC) Attorney, Michelle Arino is assigned a high-volume caseload of the most serious Juvenile Division firearm cases. Michelle obtained ADJOC sentences on two 14-year-old juveniles: One engaged in a shootout with two DPS officers, and the second discharged a firearm four times in a supermarket. Michelle also handled an extensive restitution hearing where three juveniles robbed a Quinceanera of the cash gifts. Michelle was able to give some consolation to the victim with the court ordering \$8,000 in restitution. In addition to her trial work, Michelle was a founding member of the Girl's Leadership Program at Solano Elementary School. Michelle mentored students during bi-monthly meetings, lunches, and assemblies to let the girls know she was there to support them. Michelle teaches for the Advanced Forensic Interview Training Program. Last year she presented for both the Cities of Phoenix and Surprise on Teen Dating Violence Awareness.

Award Nominees

Prosecutor Rising Star Award



Kristen Canada
Tucson City Prosecutor's Office

Kristen Canada is the Tucson City Prosecutor's Nominee for the 2021 Rising Star Award. Kristen is one of the most mature young prosecutors that we have ever had in the office. Her trial skills, poise under pressure, and dedicated work ethic make her a standout amongst new attorneys. Kristen never backs away from a challenge but rather leans in, seeking to improve her skills as a prosecutor and litigator by embracing challenging cases. She analyzes those cases from every angle, developing a trial strategy where she is prepared for every possible defense. Kristen possesses the poise and polish of a more seasoned prosecutor and has

quickly demonstrated that she is no timid new prosecutor but rather a fierce litigator with innate trial instincts. Her professionalism, preparation, and litigation skills have earned her the respect of not only her fellow prosecutors but also of the defense bar and the Court



Andrew Faas
Maricopa County Attorney's Office

In November 2017, Andrew Faas was hired at the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. Andrew's first assignment was to the East Justice Court Bureau where from day one Andrew has shined as one of the hardest workers in the office. During his brief months in that bureau, Andrew completed 15 bench trials and 1 misdemeanor jury trial. Subsequently, in September of 2018, Andrew quickly advanced into the felony trial division. Throughout his two years in the trial division, Andrew has consistently had one of the highest caseloads, took the most cases to trial, and was always willing to volunteer to support the other

attorneys in the bureau. Andrew's trial performance and understanding of the law led to his third advancement within his first three years in the office to his current position as the E. Phoenix/Scottsdale trial bureau's dedicated charging attorney.

Award Nominees

Prosecutor Rising Star Award (continued)



Garet Kartchner
Graham County Attorney's Office

Garet Kartchner has made it his personal mission to end the fentanyl trade in Graham County. Quickly becoming the offices go to attorney for sale cases, he has already earned a reputation as a skilled and gifted litigator. Taking a no compromise approach, despite only being an attorney for a little over a year, he is fearless when it comes to going toe to toe with the most seasoned defense attorney. Often heard saying "go kick rocks" when more experienced attorneys make their idle threats about embarrassing him at trial, Garet has had tremendous successes in trial. Garet has yet to lose a bench or jury trial or any suppression hearing. While that may be

common among young attorneys, the fact that he has kept his perfect record by taking extremely challenging cases to trial makes this hot streak extremely impressive.



Courtney Kramer
Arizona Attorney General's Office

Assistant Attorney General Courtney Kramer was metaphorically thrown into the deep end of the pool when she was hired as the sole Criminal Division prosecutor for the Attorney General's Northern Arizona Office in April 2020. With only minimal assistance due to the COVID-19 restrictions, Courtney began to exhibit a veteran prosecutor's poise and moxie as she effectively dealt with a massive health insurance fraud scheme case that she had inherited, along with the 47 defendants. Courtney was able to familiarize herself with the case and make significant contributions to several litigated motions; all while being the

AGO's sole Criminal Division prosecutor for health care cases in the northern third of the state. An examination of Courtney's resume reveals she had two federal health care agency legal extern appointments which provided an insight that she was destined to be an emerging star as a health care fraud prosecutor.

Award Nominees

Prosecutor Rising Star Award (continued)



Chris Michalsky
Yavapai County Attorney's Office

Chris Michalsky joined the Yavapai County Attorney's Office in the spring of 2019 after working for a short time practicing civil law. He has quickly adapted to the role of prosecutor and continuously seeks out new challenges. What makes Chris a stand-out are his endless quest for knowledge and a daily desire to develop expertise and new skills. Each time Chris encounters something new, he looks for opportunities to practice that new facet of the job in order to master the skill. Chris has quickly adapted to the effort of the criminal justice system to decriminalize mental illness and to strike the appropriate balance between offenders who need mental health services and those who are dangerous and need to be housed in a secure setting.

Appellate Prosecutor of the Year Award



Julie Done
Maricopa County Attorney's Office

Julie Done joined the Maricopa County Attorney Office Capital Litigation Bureau in 2019, after more than twelve years with the Attorney General's Office where she worked in their Capital Litigation and Criminal Appeals sections. Since coming to Maricopa, Julie has drafted multiple Special Actions, Responses and Petitions for Review. She has participated in oral argument before the Arizona Supreme Court—including by video conference during the pandemic. She has also drafted amicus briefs in pending appellate litigation. Julie assists on cases throughout the bureau, including taking a leadership position on the Miller/Montgomery (juvenile life) cases. Julie's contributions are not only helpful to the office but impact justice for victims statewide as several of her cases have had helpful opinions published. These include State v. Altamirano, State v. Harris, and State v. Buckman, among others.

Award Nominees

Appellate Prosecutor of the Year Award (continued)



Lacey Gard
Office of the Arizona Attorney General

Lacey Gard has been a dedicated appellate prosecutor for over 15 years. Just in 2020, she was an author on two winning briefs in the United States Supreme Court—making important law and defending Arizona capital sentences for the deaths of three Arizona murder victims. Lacey supervises a sizable team of capital litigators with extensive work in all levels of state and federal court. This entails, in part, reviewing answering briefs and other filings, as well as overseeing and conducting evidentiary hearings. She also regularly participates as an instructor in CLE seminars and serves on various bar and supreme court committees, such as the Rule 32 Task

Force and the Capital Case Oversight Committee. She has also lent her legal expertise and writing skills to teaching legal writing. Her dedication to criminal appellate work has benefitted prosecutors across Arizona.



Geraldine Roll
Pinal County Attorney's Office

The Pinal County Attorney's Office is proud to nominate Geraldine Roll for Appellate Prosecutor of the Year. In addition to her appellate caseload, she draws from her years of experience to provide invaluable advice and assistance to trial attorneys on mental health matters, including contested Rule 11 hearings, GEI cases, Title 36 petitions, and SVP matters. She expertly handles about two thirds of all post-conviction relief petitions for the office, resulting in favorable rulings on nearly all her petitions. The most significant in the past year was State v. Ronald Bigger, a high profile 2004 murder for hire case. Facing

a well-funded defense bar and multiple amicus briefs from third party defense organizations, through Geri's efforts, the petition was dismissed at the trial court level and, following an oral argument, the dismissal was upheld by Division II in a very favorable published opinion.

Award Nominees

Appellate Prosecutor of the Year Award (continued)



Mari Worman
Tucson City Prosecutor's Office

The Criminal Division of the Tucson City Attorney's Office is proud to nominate Mari Worman for APAAC's 2021 Appellate Prosecutor of the Year. She is diligent, an excellent writer, knowledgeable, persuasive, and most importantly, she understands that the role of the prosecutor on appeal is not to win, but to do justice. More than that, she is a wonderful colleague and person. Mari singlehandedly oversees the appellate unit in the Criminal Division. Although municipal cases do not regularly go to the Court of Appeals, Mari scored a tremendous victory on behalf of the State with *Devlin v. Browning* in 2020. She did this as she does everything: by combining enthusiasm for appeals with a tireless work ethic. She is supportive of her colleagues personally and professionally and forms a critical part of our office.

David R. White Excellence in Victim Advocacy Award



Terisha Driggs and Michael Powell
Cochise County Attorney's Office

Re-trying a child molestation case is never a good thing. Re-trying a child molestation case during a global pandemic, should probably be impossible. However, Michael Powell and Terisha Driggs proved once again that anything is, in fact, possible so long as your relationship with the victim and their representatives is solid and you have built such a level of trust that they consider the whole office to be part of the family. The re-trial in this case was caused by a member of the media publishing the identity of a juror mid-trial. As a result, the victim had to go through the trial process twice. Throughout, Michael and Terisha showed dedication, thoughtfulness, and compassion for our victim and carefully guided her and her family to yet another just verdict of Guilty.

Award Nominees

David R. White Excellence in Victim Advocacy Award (continued)



Casi Harris
Yavapai County Attorney's Office

Day or night, Casi Harris makes herself available to assist victims of crime and our law enforcement community. She wants each victim to have a voice and gives a voice to those who cannot speak for themselves. Her knowledge of the law, her compassion and ability to relate to the victims, and her success in the courtroom make her an outstanding victim rights advocate for criminal justice. Over the past year, Casi has handled several serious victim crimes, including child sex crimes and a brutal double-murder. Casi is not just a prosecutor; she is a warm, open person who genuinely cares about her victims and wants to see justice prevail.



Jillian Morris
Tucson City Prosecutor's Office

Jillian Morris is assigned to the Tucson City Prosecutor's Dedicated Domestic Violence Court. Jillian's calm, quiet, composed presence provides a much needed anchor for victims during their time of trauma and crisis. After just two months in her DV Court assignment, the COVID-19 pandemic struck, making victims of domestic abuse more vulnerable and creating new challenges. Undeterred, Jillian problem-solved with the other members of her team, working to develop solutions to keep victims engaged in prosecution and connected to services for domestic violence survivors. Throughout the pandemic, Jillian remained steadfast in her commitment to protecting victims of domestic abuse, taking extraordinary efforts to ensure that these victims did not feel forgotten or overlooked amidst the court closures, vacated trials, and limited resources. Her calm fortitude provides a reassuring presence for all victims in her courtroom.

Award Nominees

Lifetime Achievement Award



Michael Baker
Maricopa County Attorney's Office

Michael "Mike" Baker began his prosecutorial career as a Deputy Mohave County Attorney in 1984. In 1986, he joined the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. In the decades that followed, Mike served Maricopa in a variety of capacities including trial attorney, mentor, charging and grand jury attorney, assistant bureau chief and bureau chief. During his career Mike tried many violent and complex cases, reviewed approximately 15,000 submittals for charging and presented a significant number of matters before the Grand Jury. He is known for his encyclopedic knowledge of case law which he generously shares with other attorneys. In his personal time, Mike volunteers with many community organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, St. Mary's Food Bank, the Special Olympics, and Pat's Run. After 36 years as a prosecutor, Mike continues to be a dedicated and consummate professional.

Gerda and Kurt Klein Guardian of Freedom Prosecutor Award



Troy Simon
Town of Oro Valley Prosecutor's Office

As prosecutors, we have all had "that one case". The case that is incredibly complex, that tests our limits, that seems to go on forever and ever. We have to ask: Should we even take this case? Is the charge worth the time and resources? But we persevere because we are prosecutors determined to act in our roles as ministers of justice. Troy Simon is very deserving of this award this year due to his untiring work on "that one case" to right a wrong.

In this instance, we are talking about a misdemeanor case that includes two DNA tests, voluminous jail call transcripts, massive depositions, with over 160 exhibits just from the State after it had been whittled down. This trial has consumed over 21 full days of trial stretched out over 8 months, all done over Zoom. The NCAA and private civil lawyers were involved. In short, Troy did "the right thing" by insisting we take the case.

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Tucson City Prosecutor



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TONY ROGERS
La Paz County Attorney



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Oro Valley Town Prosecutor



GEORGE E. SILVA
Santa Cruz County Attorney



BOB SMITH
Phoenix City Prosecutor



JON R. SMITH
Yuma County Attorney



MATTHEW J. SMITH
Mohave County Attorney



KENT VOLKMER
Pinal County Attorney



MICHAEL B. WHITING
Apache County Attorney

